

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-04 /056 W

----- 023378

R 251030Z OCT 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1348

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 721

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SY, LE

SUBJECT: HIC EL ALFAQ VISIT TO IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 380

1. "FOUNDER-LEADER" OF ARAB BAATH SOCIALIST PARTY MICHEL AFLAQ IS VISITING BAGHDAD AS HONORED QUEST FOR SECOND TIME IN PAST FIVE MONTHS. IRAQI LEADERS PAYING PUBLIC

DEFERENCE TO HIM AS SEC GEN AF ABSP.

2. ACCORDING TO ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR OTHMAN SAADI, AFLAQ BEING USED BY IRAQIS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE OF IRAQI BAATH, PARTICULARLY VIS-A-VIS SYRIAN BAATH. HE COMPLETELY DISCOUNTS THEORY THAT AFLAQ BEING USED TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING INTERNAL IRAQI DIFFERENCES. SAADI SAID AFLAQ IS VIRTUALLY POWERLESS FIGURE AND REFERRED TO HIM AS "LE PAUVRE".

3. ABOVE FITS WITH WHAT LEBANESE CHARGE TOLD ME WHEN HE SAID GOI HAD RECENTLY REQUESTED SPECIAL SECURITY PROTECTION FOR AFLAQ IN BEIRUT BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE
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ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. WHEN LEBANESE ASKED BY WHOM,

IRAQIS HAD POINTED TO SYRIANS.

4. REGIME IS ENGAGING IN NUMEROUS OTHER PRESTIGE
TYPE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PLAYING HOST FOR MEETINGS OF FEDERATION
OF ARAB ECONOMISTS, ARAB HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, AND THIS WEEK,
ARAB LAWYERS CONFERENCE. WE ARE TOLD GOI PAYING ALL
EXPENSES FOR DELEGATES TO THESE MEETINGS.
LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BAGHDA00721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740307-0876
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741018/aaaaaokd.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BAGHDAD 380
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIC EL ALFAQ VISIT TO IRAQ
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, LE, SY, BAATH PARTY, (AFLAQ, MICHAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005